



PATENT
065618.0109

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8, I hereby certify that I have information and a reasonable basis for belief that this correspondence will be deposited as first-class mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 15, 2004.

RZgh
Signature

3-15-04
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Hieb, Larry E.

Serial No.: 10/635,962

Filed: August 7, 2003

Invention: Retractable Gauge Step for Flexible
Multi-Depth Vending

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Group No.: 3653

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant respectfully requests, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the art listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified application. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97(g) and (h), no representation is made that these references are material to the patentability of the present application. In accordance with the guidance provided in 1276 Off. Gaz. Pat. Off. 55, copies of the U.S. patents identified in the attached PTO-1449 are not included herewith.

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being submitted before the mailing of the earlier of the first office action on the merits, the mailing date of a final office action, or a notice of allowance. Applicant believes that no fee is required. If a fee is required, please charge any fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 15, 2004

PTO 1440

MAR 17 2004

Information Disclosure Citation in an Application

Application No.

10/635,962

Applicant(s)

Larry E. Hieb

Docket Number

065618.0109

Group Art Unit

3623

Filing Date

August 7, 2003

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A	5,791,516	08/11/98	Wittern, Jr. et al.	221	301	10/03/95
	B	5,996,838	12/07/99	Bayer et al.	221	75	11/26/97
	C	6,116,462	09/12/00	Takamura et al.	221	241	01/12/99
	D	6,409,045 B1	06/25/02	Lauer	221	124	07/15/00
	E	6,550,638 B1	04/22/03	Mochida	221	124	11/27/00

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)	DATE
	F	International Search Report for PCT/US03/24773 filed 07 August 2003	02/06/04

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.